

Message Text

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SUBJECT: HABITAT: DEBATE ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

REF: USUN 116

SUMMARY: IN FULL DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, MANY HABITAT PREP COM MEMBERS CRITICIZED SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSALS FOR IMMEDIATE POST-VANCOUVER PROGRAMS(REFTEL). FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS HIGHLIGHTED AND MODEST SHORT TERM PROGRAMS URGED UNTIL NEW INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT IN PLACE. ESTABLISHING A TOTALLY NEW UN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ORGANIZATION ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY OPPOSED. THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS AS BETWEEN REMAING INSTITUTIONAL ALTERNATIVES (ESA/CHBP OR UNEP/UNHHSF) SO THAT ISSUE WILL BE PASSED ON TO VANCOUVER FOR DECISION. SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN LEFT WITH FULL PLATE OF WORK AND MANY COUNTRIES EXPRESSED DESIRE TO BE INVOLVED IN PREPARATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS OVER NEXT FOURG MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

1. HABITAT PREP COM COMPLETED JANUARY 21 LENGTHY DISCUSSION

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OF INTERNATINAL COOPERATION AGENDA ITEM. NEXT QUESTION

IS HOW TO PROCEED TO SOLVE MANY PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS REMAINING AT END OF DEBATE. FOLLOWING STEPS WILL INVOLVE MUCH MORE SECRETARIAT WORK AND CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES IN MONTHS BEFORE VANCOUVER. INFORMAL WORKING GROUP (LED BY CANADA, SWEDEN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO) HAS PRODUCED PAPER WHICH DESIGNED TO GIVE AT LEAST SOME DIRECTION TO SECRETARIAT'S WORK.

2. FOLLOWING ARE SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS OF FOUR-DAY DEBATE:

A. INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

1) FOCUS OF THIS DISCUSSION WAS SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSAL TO UNDERTAKE 5 SPECIFIC PROGRAMS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HABITAT CONFERENCE (REFTEL). UNDERLYING IDEA OF BUILDING ON MOMENTUM OF VANCOUVER WAS WIDELY APPROVED, BUT FIVE PROGRAMS WERE SUBJECT OF MUCH CRITICISM. ESSENCE OF COMMENTS WAS THAT SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS WERE (A) TOO AMBITIOUS FOR SHORT-RUN UNDERTAKING; (B) MUCH TOO EXPENSIVE IN VIEW OF UNLIKELIHOOD THAT ADDITIONAL FUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN POST-CONFERENCE PERIOD; AND (C) LACKING IN ESSENTIAL DETAILS ON SUBJECTS SUCH AS MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS. SOME LDC'S GAVE VERY GENERAL APPROVAL TO SECRETARIAT SUGGESTIONS.

2) ON SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED PROGRAMS, A MAJORITY STATED THE ONLY REALISTIC COURSE WAS UNDERTAKING RELATIVELY MODEST NUMBER OF POST-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES; (A) INFORMATION PROGRAM BASED ON AUDIO-VISUAL AND OTHER MATERIALS USED AT VANCOUVER; (B) REFOCUSING SOME ON-GOING UN- TRAINING, RESEARCH AND ADVISORY ACTIVITIES TO FIT HABITAT GOALS.

3) IN VIEW OF RANGE OF CRITICISMS OF FIVE PROGRAMS, MAJORITY OF DELEGATIONS CONCLUDED SECRETARIAT HAD MUCH MORE WORK TO DO: EVALUATE EXISTING PROGRAMS, ADD MORE SPECIFICS ON POST-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES, EXPLAIN DETAILED FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THESE SHORT-RUN ACTIVITIES.

4) ANOTHER WIDELY SHARED VIEW WAS POLISH COMMENT THAT THERE IS NOTHING MORE PERMANENT THAN A TEMPORARY SOLUTION. THUS MANY URGED MORE WORK ON SPECIFICS OF HOW TO UNCLASSIFIED

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MOVE QUICKLY FROM LIMITED POST-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES TO LONGER-RUN PROGRAMS, INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND FINANCIAL BASE.

5) US JOINED IN THIS LATTER VIEW AND ALSO SAID TRANSITIONAL POST-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE LIMITED TO INFORMATIONAL AND ADVISORY PROGRAMS, PLUS SOME SHIFTING WITHIN EXISTING ACTIVITIES, BASED ON EXISTING

INSTITUTIONS.

B. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

1) CHIEF ELEMENT IN THIS PORTION OF DEBATE WAS SECRETARIAT'S DOCUMENT SPELLING OUT THREE INSTITUTIONAL OPTIONS.

2) THERE WAS ALMOST UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TOTALLY NEW INSTITUTION OR "PROGRAM" (SECRETARIAT OPTION C) SHOULD BE DROPPED. US JOINED ALMOST ALL OTHERS IN STATEING OPPOSITION TO THAT PROPOSAL. A MAJORITY OF DELEGATES HEDGED ON OTHER TWO OPTIONS: LOCATION IN ESA (OPTION A) OR IN UNHHSF (OPTION B). THERE WAS, HOWEVER, A MINORITY WHO VENTURED AT LEAST A TENTATIVE PREFERENCE. OPTION A SUPPORTED BY TURKEY, USSR, ZAMBIA, HUNGARY, FRANCE, DENMARK, INDIA, GDR, TANZANIA, ITALY, WITH JAPAN AND USA LEANING. OPTION B BACKED BY KUWAIT, KENYA, ARGENTINA, BANGLADESH, YUGOSLAVIA, NETHERLANDS, AUSTRIA, EGYPT, WITH JAMAICA AND PHILIPPINES LEANING.

3) THIS PORTION OF DEBATE COMPLICATED BY STEADY AND SOMETIMES HEAVY-HANDED PROPAGANDIZING BY SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM CHBP AND UNEP/UNHHSF.

4) USE OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF FUTURE PROGRAMS RECEIVED WIDE SUPPORT. MOST DELEGATES URGED THAT REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS BE FOCAL POINTS FOR FUTURE ACTION. WE STATED OUR GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH IDEA OF REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT CENTRAL POLICY AND BUDGETARY CONTROL MUST BE A KEY FUNCTION OF THE FUTURE HUMAN
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SETTLEMENT ORGANIZATION. ONE OTHER ASPECT OF INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT IN WHICH THERE IS GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN HIGH LEVEL TO PROVIDE POLICY GUIDANCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WITHIN THE UN.

5) TWO US INTERVENTIONS ALSO (A) NOTED NEED FOR CONSOLIDATION OF FUNCTIONS, NOT JUST ORGANIZATIONS; (B) FINANCING OF PROGRAMS SHOULD COME CHIEFLY FROM EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS; (C) THE NEED TO AVOID PROGRAM DUPLICATION AND BRING ABOUT BETTER COORDINATION. END
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